



Minnesota, Oklahoma, Detroit, Buffalo and Cleveland

Without a chance to recuperate of the St. Louis trip, by April 18th I was in Minneapolis and teaching Morry Gelman's group at the YMCA. His group is one of the few who have a very good dance background and easy to teach. After the session, which was late, we landed at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jock Wesson.

The following day I had a most interesting session at the International Institute, the place that made itself world famous with its Festivals of Nations. This time they had a miniature "Festival of Nations", composed mostly of Slavic groups, the Lithuanians, and a few of Morry Gelman's folk dancers. Ukrainian punch, Polish sausages and pastries of other nations were served. The Polish group and the Czechs presented a program of dances; Krakowiak, Vegierka, and the Beseda, while I taught dances to represent groups present; four Polish, four Russian, three Czech, two Serbian and five Lithuanian dances. The Lithuanian group was well represented under the leadership of Mrs. Bieža. There were several Lithuanian DP girls dressed in native costume, a Lithuanian DP priest, and many local old time Lithuanians. I was most pleasantly surprised to find that even tho the Lith colony of St. Paul is small, yet, the American-born Liths of St. Paul still spoke Lithuanian. My stay in St. Paul was so brief that it would have been inhumanely possible to see any of my friends and relatives. Therefore, I was most happy to find there my cousins Gladys and Selma and my buddy, Costance Fisher, even tho I barely had and opportunity to have a decent conversation with them. It was also grand seeing Winnie Flannagan and other Institute workers. After the session there, Morry, my cousins, and I went to Selma's home where Ted prepared a midnight snack. Again, late to bed, and the following morning I left for Winona, Minn.

Winona is a residential city of some 80,000 possessing three colleges (two Catholic and one State Teachers). The streets are broad and clean. The town is on the Mississippi and surrounded by water and high hills. Howard Daniels, whose hospitality I enjoyed while in Winona, took me riding and sightseeing and to dine at a very excellent sea food place, Hot Fish, which is owned by a Polish family. The place is decorated with Polish pictures and paintings portraying folk lore scenes and places. The food was truly delicious. Our dance session was held in the local High School gym. This group is the only folk dance group in a sea of square dancers. However, they were unaccustomed to a more elaborate type of folk dance. Nevertheless, they would not sit a single dance and went at it with enthusiasm, even tho tired. After another snack at the home of the Daniels I caught my train for Chicago at 1:50 A. M.

Reached the city at 8:00 A. M. and went directly to the printers to break up the VILTIS material into pages and ready it for printing. The Ateitis rehearsal was that night. Late home again. Saturday was a busy day with catching up with my correspondence. Sunday we had a dress rehearsal in the early afternoon and the concert took place at 4:00 P. M. Alas, I couldn't even see the concert, even tho it was my brain storm and child. The concert dealt with the "History and Development of

the Lithuanian Folk Dance." I worked on it all winter and didn't see the results, as I had to catch a 6:00 o'clock train for Oklahoma City. Ain't that awful! According to all reports, they did an excellent job. I'm particularly grateful to Lt. Frank Gaushas who volunteered to take me to the train station and missed out on seeing his brother, Klem, doing some solos and other important dances. Frank left soon after for Okinawa. Words fail me to express my appreciation.

The arrival to Oklahoma City the following morning, atmospherically, was like from an ice box into a Turkish bath. The City was green and white. Green with well leafed trees and white the blossoms of the bridal-wreath and locust trees which seem to grow abundantly.

My session was at the Epworth Methodist Church where delegates from various South Central states (New Mexico, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Kansas) convened for a recreational institute. Among the men, who were in the majority, were practically all ministers and or deacons. Each and everyone of the delegates were grand folk. Because Methodists shun the word "dancing", we called what I taught, "folk games", so we "played" around and had a grand time. Practically all of the people were exposed for the first time to the European and Ethnic type of dances (excuse me, games") It was a new experience for them and they loved every bit of it.

I've had several friends among them; Rev. and Mrs. Larry Eisenberg, the Rev. and Mrs. James Taylor, but I sure had a hundred more friends when I left. I particularly enjoyed the discourses of Dr. Leonard Stidley of the Graduate School of Theology in Oberlin (Ohio), and the leader in drama, Mrs. Ruth Norris, from New York. All were wonderful — beyond my ability to express. After a gainful week Oklahoma City I also dashed down to Weatherford, Oklahoma for a session at the Methodist church out there. Clovis Putnam drove, Betty Tether, Buddy Sprandling and I were his passengers. We passed some very interesting Indian country. The approach to the dry South Canadian river was particularly beautiful. I was guest at the home of the Spradlings whose hospitality I greatly appreciate.

While in Oklahoma City I was surprised by a visit of Prof. Forest Blankenship and Mrs. Blankenship who came in from Norman and hunted me up upon learning that I was in Oklahoma. It sure was good to see them.

Wish I didn't have to return to Chicago's blanketty-blank climate. The weather upon my return on the first of May, was cold, dreary, sunless and autumn like. Even the hedge barely showed any sign of busting.

May 14th was a busy day. The family met at my aunts for Mother's Day dinner and then I had to rush to the Lithuanian Auditorium for a program. Considering the beautiful day outside — Chicago's first spring day of actual warmth, quite a nice crowd of VILTIS faithful followers and other guests, were present. When I saw the blind group dance, and joy radiating from their faces, I was all covered with goose pimples and ready to weep. Sentimental me. Mrs. Rose sure did an excellent job with them. She, indeed, deserves praise no end for bringing joy to their otherwise darkened lives.

Not knowing whether the railroad strike would be over by the time my tour East was to start, I made arrangements with Bill Brooks to drive me to the various points of my engagements. My first stop on May 18th, was Detroit — at the International Institute. The class was large, and, as always is the case, enthusiastic. Many Lithuanians were present, as were my friends the Sax-

tons and Amneus families. The International Institute head people seem to a "tribe" of people that are ever friendly and wonderful; I found the same to be true of Miss De Grille, herself a folk dancer of long standing. Other Int. Institute workers whose friendships I enjoy and cherish are; Miss Flannagan of St. Paul, Miss Parmelee of Boston and Miss Haviland of Buffalo.

The following morning we rose bright and early and left for Buffalo via Windsor, London and Niagara Falls (Canada). Summer in that section of Canada was a bit earlier than in Illinois and Michigan. Welland County with its orchards was particularly all a-glitter with blossoms of pastel shades and hues. The Canadian side, by far, affords the better view and the greater glory of the Falls (and the grounds are better kept too).

Hans Nord was the one who introduced me to the Buffaloans, now, Buffalo seems to be my second home with friends in the hundreds. We always have a good time dancing, renewing acquaintances and what have you. I was particularly thrilled no end to find there two friends from Toronto, Canada, Russell Pickering and Bernice Bromby, both of John Madsen's group. Both are now in Europe on an extended tour to various countries and I was glad to see them before they left. Lou Mahony came in from Rochester and then all the local friends! I stayed there for three days. We were entertained with various feed fests by Miss Haviland, the International Institute dancers and also by the Frank Gioris. Frank and Jane took us sight seeing and to the Lithuanian church in Niagara Falls for Mass. Their present priest is a Chicagoan, Father Vincent Raitelis.

Monday morning we left for Cleveland. The drive along the Erie was beautiful. The Pennsylvanian stretch along the Erie shores was particularly enchanting; orchards and vineyards, blossoming trees and flowering bushes. The lilacs of blue and white, the dogwoods of a gorgeous pink and white, the purplish redwoods, the brilliantly yellow forsythias, hawthorns, and then the tulips in fresh glitter and the shimmering blue waters in constant view made a most impressive scene of enchantment — God's glory in color.

In Cleveland we only made social calls; but, alas, in one evening we barely touched the surface. We went down to the office of the Lithuanian paper Dirva, visited Liudas Sagys and Miss Vileišis — instructors of the dance section of the noted Lithuanian troupe, Šiurlionis, visited the Mikulskis family. (Mr. Mikulskis is the musical director of that famous ensemble while Mrs. Mikulskis directs the Kanklės section.) From there we went to a class conducted by Michael Lamont, an old time friend of mine, and after the session we left for Chicago. Stayed over in Lorraine and reached Chicago on Tuesday in time for my International House calss and dog tired. But it was wonderful trip. Now, I'm gallivanting all over the West. We'll probably...

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JAMES GAMBLE VISITS CHICAGO

James Gamble, former head of the Recreation Development for the state of Missouri, spent a few days in Chicago. He was a luncheon guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Bolin, folk dance leaders of the Western Springs-Naperville area. Others enjoying the repast and beautiful surroundings were; Mrs. Albert Rose of La Grange, Vyts Beliajus and Larry Golden. Mr. Gamble visited various folk dance groups in Chicago.

NATIONAL FOLK CAMP TO BE HELD AT CUIVRE RIVER STATE PARK

The song of the fiddle and the whirl of the loom, once an integral part of American life, will again be heard daily when the National Folk Camp is held in Cuivre River State Park near Troy, Mo. next August 13 to September 1.

The Camp, planned to meet the growing need for folk study but fun as part of the curriculum, will offer the folk enthusiast everything needed to delve authoritatively into square, round and contra dancing, the running set and their European antecedents; balladry, weaving, woodcarving and other recreational folk activities.

Imposing names are listed on the staff, headed by Miss Sarah Gertrude Knott, director, who will lead daily sessions in folklore. Jim Gamble, editor of the annual Missouri state guide book and former head of recreation development for Missouri will be Camp manager. Jim is a recognized authority on Ozark square dancing.

There will be Frank H. Smith, member of the faculty of Berea College, Berea, Ky.; Miss Mabel Rilling of Denver, Colo., who has done extensive research in western mining camps on Wetsrn square and couple dances; Leonard Austin of Cleveland, Ohio, former research assistant for the cultural department of the League of Nations, who gained a first-hand knowledge of folk dances as a youth in the Carpathian Mountains and elsewhere in Europe; Mrs. May Kennedy McCord, well known to National Folk Festival participants and ballad collectors everywhere; Mr. and Mrs. A. O. Kelley of Iberia, Mo., instructors of weaving and woodcarving; Miss Jennie Cossitt of Houston, Texas, founder and director of the Pipers' Guild of America; and guest leaders who cannot be present for the entire camp but will be there for special classes. Members of the folk dance movement in St. Louis will assist in the recreational and leisure-time program.

The program of National Folk Camp is set up to appeal to both the expert and the novice. All will feel at home in the newly constructed rustic buildings at the top of Frenchman's Bluff, Cuivre River State Park, 55 miles north of St. Louis and five miles from Troy, Mo. The spot was selected for its sylvan beauty, (it overlooks beautiful Cuivre river valley), its facilities for folk study and easy accessibility.

There are dormitory accomodations for 150 people, with a dining lodge, showers and modern conveniences. Three "scrumptious" meals a day, and a cook to handle the galley. All the guest need do is to make his own bed, take his turn at table service (no dish washing), and relax.

Highlights of Camp will include roundtable discussions; dancing (night parties), music, practice teaching sessions; fish fries, barbecues, hayrides, tall tales, fox hunts (Ozark style, sittin' at the top of a wooded hill listenin' to the music of the hounds on the chase); and splashes into the "ole swimmin' hole." Trips to points of historic interest in St. Louis and Ste. Genevieve, and into the Daniel Boone and Mark Twain regions will be laid out for those who might desire to spend a day off in roaming a bit. There will be plenty of fun, time for siestas and a comprehensive study of America's folklore in its natural setting.

For further details or reservations write James Gamble, 101 West High St., Jefferson City, Missouri.